

REMARKS

Claims 17, 18, 24, 26 and 27 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Support for claim 27 can be found throughout the specification and specifically at page 2, last full paragraph of the substitute specification. Claims 17 and 18 have been amended to remove incorrect dependencies and otherwise improve readability. By action taken here, Applicants in no way intend to surrender any range of equivalents beyond that needed to patentably distinguish the claimed invention as a whole over the prior art. Applicants expressly reserve all such equivalents that may fall in the range between Applicants' literal claim recitations and combinations taught or suggested by the prior art.

Applicants thank the Examiner for renumbering added claim 26 to claim 27 in keeping with standard US practice. To facilitate prosecution, a clean copy of the complete set of pending claims is attached.

Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 24 and 27 as being informal. Applicants respectfully submit that the noted informalities have been removed through amendment and respectfully request that these objections be withdrawn.

Rejection of claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Examiner rejected claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Applicants have amended claim 26 to remove the noted antecedent basis problem and respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Rejection of claim 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claim 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5, 895,207 to Burgdorf et al. ("Burgdorf"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 27 has been amended to recite a means for an axially holding device for at least one carbon brush. Burgdorf does not disclose an axially holding device of a carbon brush. Rather, Burgdorf utilizes radial brushes that are not axially held within the brush holders as they are in the presently claimed invention. Since Burgdorf does not disclose each feature of the presently claimed invention, the Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Rejection of claims 17-18 and 24-26 under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected claims 17-18 and 24-26 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as obvious over Burgdorf in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,244,917 to Gute ("Gute"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

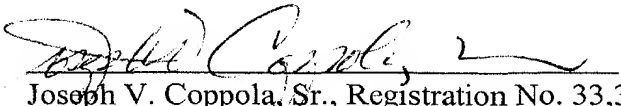
For essentially the same reason stated above, the combination of Burgdorf and Gute do not disclose or suggest the use of an axially holding device for the carbon brushes. Recall that Gute shows only an axially moveable brush that is urged by a spring toward the commutator. There is no disclosure or suggestion that the bush may be axially held in the brush holder. Since Burgdorf and Gute do not disclose or suggest each feature of the presently claimed invention, the Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

For these reasons, the Applicant believes that this application is now in condition for allowance and earnestly request early action. It is believed that any additional fees due with respect to this paper have already been identified in any transmittal accompanying this paper.

However, if any additional fees are required in connection with the filing of this paper that are not identified in any accompanying transmittal, permission is given to charge account number 18-0013 in the name of Rader, Fishman and Grauer PLLC.

Respectfully submitted,


Joseph V. Coppola, Sr., Registration No. 33,373
Christopher J. Voci, Registration No. 45,184
Rader, Fishman and Grauer PLLC
39533 Woodward Ave., Suite 140
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48304
(248) 594-0650
Attorney for Applicants